

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 40

1400 Hours December 28, 2005

New Information in Bold Italics

The next Situation Report will be 4 January 2006 at 1400 hours. Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours. Conference Calls are on an as needed basis.

SUMMARY

The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation:

The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition.

State of Emergency:

On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Protective Actions:

Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

WEATHER

Forecast:

Southwest VA: Wednesday 28 December – Mostly cloudy, slight chance of rain showers late in the morning with rain showers likely in the afternoon, high temperatures low to mid 50s, breezy, South winds 10 to 20 MPH, chance of rain 60%. Wednesday night – Periods of light rain showers, low temperatures mid to upper 30s, Southwest winds 5 to 10 MPH, chance of rain 90%. **Thursday 29 December** – Rain showers likely in the morning with a chance of rain showers in the afternoon, high temperatures upper 30s to low 40s, West winds 10 to 15 MPH, chance of rain 70%. Thursday night – Mostly cloudy, slight chance of sprinkles or flurries in the evening, low temperatures around 30, West winds 10 MPH or less, chance of precipitation 10%. **Friday 30 December** – Partly cloudy, high temperatures upper 40s to low 50s, light winds. Friday night – Partly cloudy, slight chance of rain showers in the evening with a chance of rain showers after midnight, low temperatures mid 30s, chance of rain 30%. **Saturday 31 December** – Mostly cloudy with a 40% chance of rain showers, high temperatures low 50s. Saturday night – Partly cloudy with a 20% chance of rain showers in the evening, low temperatures mid 30s. **Sunday 1 January 2006** – Partly cloudy, high temperatures low to mid 50s.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison:

VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator is available as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

Temporary control of two blivets located at Bullitt Park (Water Filtration Plant) has been turned over to Town of Big Stone Gap. All National Guard personnel are off State Active Duty. Remaining two blivets are to be removed no later than 15 January 2006 and National Guard personnel will be placed on State Active Duty for their recovery.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ continues to work with the town of Big Stone Gap to monitor water production, water sales and calculate the amount of water losses on a monthly basis.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area with plans to change the messages on the boards every three days so that members of the community do not become complacent.

A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies as needed.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Current Powell River stream flow is **53 cubic feet per second. (Stream flow has ranged between 21cfs and 72cfs during the past week, averaging a low flow of 40.2cfs and a high flow of 54.7cfs.)** The current water level at the old dam is **14.8 feet below the spillway, up one foot from last week.** The water treatment plant has processed over one million gallons per day since the last Situation Report. **Lee and Scott Counties is supplying limited water (200,000 gallons per day) to Big Stone Gap.** Water supply from the Town of Appalachia has been discontinued. Electric pump purchased to pump water from Powell Valley Cave Number 1 is ready, if needed. **Plan in place for Wallens Ridge State Prison to stop water-hauling operations no later than 15 January 2006.** Wise County is submitting Local Situation Report weekly.

Prepared by: Mike Gray
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Al Pace, Deputy Director of Operations